

Remarks / Arguments

In response to the Office Action mailed March 5, 2004, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejections of the claims.

Claims 2-6, 8-13, and 15-20 remain.

Claims 2-6, 8-13, and 15-20 are being amended.

Claims 1, 7, and 14 are being cancelled.

Claims 21-26 are being added.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, and 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by *Toyomaki*. (U.S. Patent 5,008,675) (hereinafter "the *Toyomaki* reference"). Claims 1, 7, and 14 have been cancelled. The dependency of Claims 2, 5-6, and 14-15 has been amended such that Claims 2, 5-6, and 14-15 now depend on a formerly objected-to claim, and should therefore now be allowable.

Claims 3, 8-10, 12, 13, and 18-20 stand objected-to on the grounds that the associated base claims have been rejected, but are otherwise allowable. Applicants have amended Claims 3, 4, 8-9, 11, 12, and 17-20 such that they now include all the features of the former associated base claim, and the features of any intervening claims. Claims 3, 8-10, 12, 13, and 18-20 should now be in condition for allowance.

Claims 4, 11, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the *Toyomaki* reference in view of *Melanson* et al. (U.S. Patent 6,693,571)(hereinafter the "*Melanson* reference"). Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amendments above, and on the grounds that the *Melanson* reference is disqualified as prior art under §§ 706.02(I)1 and 706.02(I)2 of the *Manual of Patent Examining Procedure*("the *MPEP*").

Specifically, Applicants respectfully submit that the *Melanson* reference is disqualified with respects to the rejections of Claims 4, 11, and 17, in view of §§ 706.02(I)1 and 706.02(I)2 of the *MPEP*, because: (1) the *Melanson* reference constitutes prior art only under 35 U.S.C. §102(e); the rejections of Claims 4, 11, and 17 are based solely on 35 U.S.C. §103(a), and (3) the present application and the

Melanson reference, U.S. Patent 6,693,571, were at the time of invention of the present application commonly owned by the assignee, Cirrus Logic, Inc., Austin, Texas.

With the disqualification of the *Melanson* reference as prior art, Claims 4, 11, and 17 should now be allowable.

New dependent Claims 21-26 have been added to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the inventive subject matter discussed above.

No new matter has been added; the claims have been merely amended to more particularly claim the subject matter Applicants believe is inventive. Applicants respectfully submit that the Claims as they now stand are patentably distinct over the art cited during the prosecution thereof.

With this amendment, the claims in this application stand at 23 with a total of 10 independent claims. Attached is a check in the amount of \$656.00 in payment of the additional fee. Applicant believes that no additional fees are required. However, the Director hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account Number 23-2426 of WINSTEAD SECHREST & MINICK P.C.

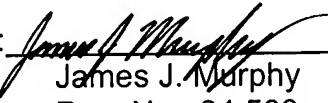
If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this paper or the present application in general, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (214) 745-5374.

Respectfully submitted,

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